

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary cove base comprising
an outer wall;
an inner wall, wherein an interior surface of said inner wall further comprises a sanitary sweep and an abutment surface for adjacent flooring;
a plurality of longitudinally-extending web members existing between said outer wall and said inner wall, thereby connecting said outer wall to said inner wall; and
a plurality of hollow channels, each hollow channel being defined between said inner wall, said outer wall, a first longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members, and a next adjacent longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members.
2. (Currently Amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 1, wherein said sanitary cove base is constructed from material selected from the group consisting of ABS Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene, polypropylene, high-density polyethylene, and PVC Polyvinyl Chloride.
3. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1, wherein said sanitary cove base is made with the following composition: 98% polyethylene plastic, 1% coloring agent, 1/2% foaming agent, and 1/2% anti-fungal material.
4. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 3, wherein said sanitary cove base is milled from a solid block of material.
5. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 3, wherein said sanitary cove base is extruded.
6. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1, wherein said sanitary cove base further comprises
an interior surface of said inner wall;
a wall-facing surface of said outer wall;

a top surface; and
a bottom surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 6,
~~wherein said interior surface of said inner wall further comprises~~
~~a sanitary sweep; and~~
~~an abutment surface;~~
and wherein said wall-facing surface of said outer wall further comprises
a chamfer;
a plurality of adhesive ridges;
a plurality of relief valleys; and
a wall-contact crest.

8. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 7, wherein said top surface has a width of approximately 0.438 inches, and wherein said abutment surface has a height of approximately 0.500 inches.

9. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 7, wherein said abutment surface is displaced forwardly from said interior surface of said inner wall by a distance of approximately 0.500 inches.

10. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface extends horizontally between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface.

11. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface extends between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface, and wherein said top surface is substantially horizontal adjacent to said wall-facing surface and is substantially vertical adjacent to said interior surface.

12. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said top surface extends between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface, and wherein said top surface slopes downwardly between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface.

13. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 12, wherein said top surface is curved.

14. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 12, wherein said top surface is flat.

15. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein the sanitary cove base has an overall height from said bottom surface to said top surface of approximately 8.0 inches.

16. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 6, wherein said wall-facing surface of said outer wall further comprises

a plurality of sections of adhesive ridges; and

a plurality of relief valleys, wherein each section of adhesive ridges of said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges is separated from a next adjacent section of adhesive ridges of said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges by a relief valley of said plurality of relief valleys.

17. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16 further comprising a wall-contact crest extending rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall, wherein said plurality of relief valleys comprises an upper relief valley, wherein said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges comprises an upper section of adhesive ridges, and wherein said upper relief valley separates said upper section of adhesive ridges from said wall-contact crest.

18. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 17, wherein a top sidewall of said upper relief valley connects said wall-contact crest to a floor of said upper relief valley.

19. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16 further comprising a wall-contact crest that extends rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall a first distance, wherein each adhesive ridge of said plurality of sections of adhesive ridges extends rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall a second distance, and wherein said first distance equals said second distance.

20. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16, wherein each adhesive ridge within a first section of adhesive ridges is displaced from a next adjacent adhesive ridge in said first section of adhesive ridges by a distance of approximately 0.125 inches.

21. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 16, wherein said adhesive ridges extend rearwardly from said wall-facing surface of said outer wall approximately 0.063 inches.

22. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1, wherein said hollow channels extend longitudinally through the sanitary cove base.

23. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 22 further comprising a first longitudinal end and a second longitudinal end, and wherein said hollow channels extend between said first longitudinal end and said second longitudinal end.

24. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1 further comprising
a lower end having a large, lower channel extending therethrough; and
a vertical portion, wherein said vertical portion comprises
at least a first part of said outer wall;
at least a first part of said inner wall; and
a plurality of hollow channels, wherein said plurality of hollow
channels comprises
an upper, small hollow channel; and
a lower, small hollow channel.

25. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1, wherein said sanitary cove base comprises
a lower end, wherein a large, lower channel extends through said lower end; and
a vertical portion, wherein said vertical portion comprises a plurality of hollow channels, and wherein said plurality of hollow channels comprises
a top hollow channel;
a second hollow channel, said second hollow channel located below said top hollow channel;
a third hollow channel, said third hollow channel located below said second hollow channel;
a fourth hollow channel, said fourth hollow channel located below said third hollow channel;
a fifth hollow channel, said fifth hollow channel located below said fourth hollow channel;

a sixth hollow channel, said sixth hollow channel located below said fifth hollow channel;
a seventh hollow channel, said seventh hollow channel located below said sixth hollow channel;
an eighth hollow channel, said eighth hollow channel located below said seventh hollow channel; and
a ninth hollow channel, said ninth hollow channel located below said eighth hollow channel and above said large, lower channel.

26. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 25, wherein said third hollow channel is an upper, small hollow channel; wherein said eighth hollow channel is a lower, small hollow channel; and wherein said upper, small hollow channel and said lower, small hollow channel are shorter than each of said top hollow channel, said second hollow channel, said fourth hollow channel, said fifth hollow channel, said sixth hollow channel, said seventh hollow channel, and said ninth hollow channel.

27. (Currently Amended) The sanitary cove base of claim 26, wherein said upper, small hollow channel and said lower, small hollow channel are each adapted to receive an attachment screw.

28. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 25, wherein
said top hollow channel is approximately 0.636 inches high vertically;
said second hollow channel is approximately 0.942 inches high vertically;
said third hollow channel is approximately 0.404 inches high vertically;
said fourth hollow channel is approximately 0.754 inches tall vertically;
said fifth hollow channel is approximately 0.923 inches tall vertically;
said sixth hollow channel is approximately 0.861 inches tall vertically;
said seventh hollow channel is approximately 0.504 inches tall vertically;
said eighth hollow channel is approximately 0.404 inches tall vertically;
said ninth hollow channel is approximately 0.817 inches tall vertically; and
said large, lower channel is approximately 0.641 inches tall vertically.

29. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 28, wherein each of said hollow channels is approximately 0.125 inches wide between said inner wall and said outer wall.

30. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 25, wherein said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members comprises nine longitudinally-extending web members that extend between said outer wall and said inner wall; and wherein each of said nine longitudinally-extending web members separates one of said top hollow channel, said second hollow channel, said third hollow channel, said fourth hollow channel, said fifth hollow channel, said sixth hollow channel, said seventh hollow channel, said eighth hollow channel, said ninth hollow channel, and said large, lower channel from a next adjacent hollow channel.

31. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 30, wherein each of said nine web members is approximately 0.096 inches thick vertically.

32. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1, wherein said sanitary cove base further comprises

- a top wall;
- a sweep wall;
- a floor wall;
- a bottom wall; and
- a chamfer wall.

33. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 32, wherein said top wall, said inner wall, said sweep wall, said floor wall, said bottom wall, said chamfer wall, and said outer wall are all approximately 0.125 inches thick.

34. (Original) The sanitary cove base of claim 1 further comprising
- a first plurality of screw insertion holes through said inner wall and adapted to accept an attachment screw; and
 - a second plurality of buttons, each button being frictionally received in one of said first plurality of screw insertion holes.

Claims 35-41 (canceled)

42. (New) A sanitary cove base comprising
- an outer wall;
 - an inner wall;

a plurality of longitudinally-extending web members existing between said outer wall and said inner wall, thereby connecting said outer wall to said inner wall;

a plurality of hollow channels, each hollow channel being defined between said inner wall, said outer wall, a first longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members, and a next adjacent longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members;

an interior surface of said inner wall;

a wall-facing surface of said outer wall;

a top surface, wherein said top surface extends between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface, and wherein said top surface slopes downwardly between said wall-facing surface and said interior surface, and wherein said top surface is curved; and

a bottom surface.

43. (New) A sanitary cove base comprising

an outer wall;

an inner wall;

a plurality of longitudinally-extending web members existing between said outer wall and said inner wall, thereby connecting said outer wall to said inner wall; and

a plurality of hollow channels, each hollow channel being defined between said inner wall, said outer wall, a first longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members, and a next adjacent longitudinally-extending web member of said plurality of longitudinally-extending web members;

wherein the plurality of hollow channels are substantially non-uniform to reduce the amount of material to manufacture the sanitary cove base and provide for flexibility of the installed sanitary cove base upon impact while still avoiding differential cooling problems.

44. (New) The sanitary cove base of claim 43, wherein the plurality of hollow channels permit injection of gas and/or cooling water during manufacturing to more accurately and predictably form the sanitary cove base without unacceptable warping and distortion.

45. (New) The sanitary cove base of claim 43, further comprising a relief region formed by a chamfer at a juncture of an adjacent wall and subfloor where the sanitary cove base is installed.

46. (New) The sanitary cove base of claim 45, wherein the relief region is configured to make installing the sanitary cove base easier despite irregularities in the juncture between the adjacent wall and subfloor.

47. (New) The sanitary cove base of claim 45, wherein the relief region is configured to reduce room preparation time and thereby facilitates installation of the sanitary cove base since a small amount of debris may remain without interfering with the installation of the sanitary cove base.